

App. No. 10/608,725
Amdt. Dated May 26, 2006
Reply to Office Action of February 28, 2006
Atty. Dkt. No. 9129-109

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This reply is responsive to an Office Action dated February 28, 2006. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and presently pending claims 1-25 are respectfully requested.

Present Status of the Patent Application

Claims 1-25 remain pending in the present application. Claims 25-36 have been rejected. Claims 18 and 19 have been objected to. Claims 18 and 25 has been amended. Claims 26-38 have been canceled without prejudice.

Applicants wish to express their appreciation for the Examiner's acknowledgement of allowable subject matter for claims 1-17 and 20-24.

Claim Objections

Claims 18 and 19 have been objected to because it is allegedly unclear as to what further limitation has been set forth in claim 18. Applicants have amended claim 18 to incorporate structure from claim 1 to eliminate this objection. Applicants submit that claims 18 and 19 are now in condition for allowance and that this objection should be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 25-33 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Hoenig (U.S. Patent No. 4,996,479) in view of Dilorio et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,442,289) and Zanakis et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,951,674). Claims 34-36 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Hoenig in view of Dilorio et al. and Zanakis et al. and further in view of Yokosawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,166,614). These rejections are now moot, since the Applicants have

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amended claim 25 to depend from allowable independent claim 1 and canceled claims 26-36 without prejudice.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that all objections and rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that now pending claims 1-25 as amended are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at 619-231-3666.

Please direct all correspondence to the undersigned attorney or agent at the address indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: May 26, 2006

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